

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03306 251455Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-12 NEA-10 OES-09 HEW-06 /165 W
-----108024 261535Z /45

R 251454Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03306

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL): ITEMS II AND III ON
SEPTEMBER 6 AGENDA

REFS: (A) GENEVA 12508, (B) USUN 2451 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO JUN (AKASHI) ADDITION REPORTED REFTEL
OF ITEM II TO AGENDA WAS JAPANESE PLOY AIMED AT
PREVENTING DESIGNATION OF FRENCH AS GENEVA GROUP
WORKING LANGUAGE. AKASHI SAID THIS ITEM WAS PLANNED
FOR GENEVA GROUP'S REGULAR NEW YORK SESSION, AND
JAPANESE MISSION GENEVA EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO SWITCH
IT TO SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING WHEN NEW YORK SESSION
CANCELLED. AKASHI, SPEAKING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF
GUIDANCE, THOUGHT JAPANESE WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY
WITH GENEVA'S PROPOSAL TO MAKE THIS ITEM
OCCASION FOR GENEVA GROUP TO DISCUSS ADDITION OF ARABIC
IN WHO. COMMENT: AT THE 32ND UNGA JAPAN SPOKE AGAINST
A US PROPOSAL, ADVANCED DURING DEBATE ON ARABIC
LANGUAGE SERVICES, IN FIFTH COMMITTEE (SUBSEQUENTLY
WITHDRAWN) TO REQUEST THE SYG TO STUDY ORGANIZATIONAL
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03306 251455Z

AND FUNCTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF IMPROVEMENT OF
LANGUAGE SERVICES AND ALTERNATE MEANS OF DEFRAISING
COSTS, INCLUDING A "USER-PAY" SYSTEM, AND TO REPORT
TO THE 33RD GA. JAPAN DID, HOWEVER, SUPPORT DISCUSSING
LANGUAGE SERVICES AT THE 33RD GA. AS GENEVA IS WELL
AWARE, JAPAN'S HEAVY DEPENDENCE UPON MIDDLE EASTERN
OIL INDUCES SOME DIFFIDENCE INTO ITS TREATMENT OF ISSUES

WHERE ARAB INTERESTS OR ARAB FEELINGS ARE GREAT. END
COMMENT

2. AKASHI SAID JAPAN ALSO HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED PROPOSE
ITEM III FOR NEW YORK GENEVA GROUP SESSION, BUT DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND WHY JAPANESE MISSION GENEVA PROPOSED
IT FOR SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING. AKASHI NOTED THAT JAPAN IS
ATTRACTED TO CANADIAN IDEA OF MERGING ILO AND UN
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF
RECENT ILO ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL DECISION ON GENEVA
GENERAL SERVICE SALARY CASE. AKASHI SPECULATED ITEM III
MIGHT OCCASION DISCUSSION OF MERGER AS WELL AS ALL
ROUND REPROACH OF ILO TRIBUNAL FOR DECISION ON GENERAL
SERVICE SALARIES. AKASHI REAFFIRMED FULL, FIRM JAPANESE
SUPPORT OF ICSC ON GENEVA GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN LINE - WITH
ABORTIVE US PROPOSAL AT 32ND GA FOR USDEL TO GENEVA
GROUP MEETING TO ZERO IN ON PARAGRAPHS 82-110 OF JIU
REPORT. THESE PASSAGES PROVIDE SOME FAIRLY TELLING
EVIDENCE OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR EFFECTIVENESS
COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF ADDING
TO OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF ANY INTERNATIONAL
BODY. COUNTRIES THAT ARE MOST ABLE TO AFFORD A USER PAY
FORMULA (E.G. GERMANY AND JAPAN) ALSO HAVE A HIGH STAKE
IN REDUCING TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, IF NOT
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PAGE 03 USUN N 03306 251455Z

ELIMINATING, NEGATIVE FACTORS IN OPERATIONS AND
MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. FRG AND GOJ
ALSO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING
OF THEIR VIEWS BY AUDIENCES THEY ARE TRYING TO REACH.
PARAGRAPHS 89, 93, 94, 98, 106, 107, 109 AND 110 GIVE A
USEFUL DISCUSSION OF OBSTACLES TO REACHING SUCH
OBJECTIVES CAUSED BY LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION. FINDINGS
OF THESE PASSAGES CAN BE USED TO IMPOSE BURDEN OF
PROOF UPON ADVOCATES OF NEW UN LANGUAGES, WITHOUT
SEEMING TO JUXTAPOSE PRICE TAGS AND DEEPLY HELD
CULTURAL VALUES. THIS APPROACH MAY IMPROVE CHANCES FOR
SANE DISCUSSION OF A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ISSUE. END
COMMENT YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0317
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780821/aaaaareu.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c53d755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 125, 78 USUN NEW YORK 2451
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1614092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL): ITEMS II AND III ON SEPTEMBER 6 AGENDA
TAGS: AORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c53d755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014